REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-42 in the Application. In a previous response, the Applicants amended Claims 21 and 31, added new Claims 43 and 44 and cancelled Claims 1-20, 43 and 44 without prejudice or disclaimer. In the present response, the Applicants have amended Claims 21, 31 and 36 and have canceled Claims 23 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Claims 21-22, 24-31, and 33-42 are currently pending in the Application.

The Examiner indicates allowable subject matter. The Examiner states that Claims 23, 32, and 36 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations in the base claim and any intervening claims. (*See* Examiner's Action, page 5.) The Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowability. The Applicants have incorporated elements of dependent Claim 23 into independent Claim 21 and dependent Claim 32 into independent Claim 31. The Applicants have also incorporated independent Claim 21 into allowed dependent Claim 36 to create an independent Claim 36.

I.   Rejection of Claims 21-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected Claims 21-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response, the Applicants amend independent claims 21 and 31 to recite "at least one media access controller..." and "at least one programmable logic core". Thus, the claims recite at least a single element.

Furthermore, in response, the Examiner rejects Claims 31-34 to 39 for a lack of antecedent basis. In response, the Applicants amend independent Claim 31 to recite "a first, second and third media access controller and a plurality of, *including a first, a second, and a third,* programmable logic core blocks (MP blocks)..."

In light of the amendments, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 21-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and allow the claims to issue.

II.   Rejection of Claims 21, 22, 24-31, 33-35 and 37-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 21, 22, 24-31, 33-35 and 37-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,920,562 to Kerr, *et al.,* ("Kerr") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,807,581 to Starr, *et al.,* ("Starr"). The Applicants respectfully disagree in view of the present amendment.

As discussed above, the Applicants have amended independent Claims 21 and 31 to incorporate allowed dependent Claims 23 and 32 into independent Claims 21 and 31. Therefore, the rejection of the independent Claims 21 and 31 is rendered moot. Furthermore, the Applicants have incorporated independent Claim 31 into allowed dependent Claim 36, thereby making dependent Claim 36 independent. Claim 36 also contains elements from the previously allowable dependent Claim 36, and should therefore also be allowable. Again, the rejection of independent Claim 31 is rendered moot due to an incorporation of allowable elements of dependent Claim 36. As such, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claims 21-22, 24-31, and 33-42 and allow issuance thereof.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing Amendment and remarks, all of the claims currently pending in this Application should be deemed allowed by the Examiner. The Applicants therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for the Application and all of the pending Claims 21-22, 24-31, and 33-42.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present Application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 12-2252.

Respectfully submitted,

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